THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Sir, the news report refers to the new computer system in the Delhi Customs House in the Air Cargo Terminal in Delhi. The computerisation is being introduced in stages and the processing of export documents pertaining to drawback shipping bills started from 1.11.96. It is learnt that there was a slight slow down in processing during the changeover in the first week but the system has since stablished.

(c) Export promotion measures are continously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes based on interaction with industry, trade and other promotional institutions.

Financial position of Bharat Refractories. Ltd. and Burns Standard Ltd.

1760. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Refractories Limited and Burns Standard Company Limited, the two public sector undertakings producing refractory bricks are running at a profit;

(b) if so, their profit for the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Both Bharat Refractories Limited and Burn Standard Company Limited manufacture refractory bricks. Both companies are incurring losses.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

(c) Obsolete plant and machinery, low off-take of refractories due to change in demand pattern, under-utilization of capacity, shortage of power/coal, shortage of working capital etc. are the reasons for the losses.

Formulation of a National Wage Policy

1761. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PRAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering formulation of a National Wage Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There is no proposal before the Government to formulate the National Wage Policy;

(b) Wages in the organised sector are determined through negotiations and settlements. Wherever necessary, the Government also constitutes Wage Boards, in certain sectors, for fixation and revision of wages. In the unorganised sector, wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Minimum Wages Act, both the State and the Central Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction. The Act provides for the periodic revision of minimum rates of wages.

Exploration and exploitation of zinc and lead resources In the country

1762. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the identified zinc and lead resources in the country;

(b) the total installed capacity in the organised sector for production of zinc and lead at present;